

Message Text

PAGE 01 REYKJA 01442 291804Z

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C O N F I D E N T I A L REYKJAVIK 1442

EXDIS- SPECAT FOR MILITARY ADDRESSEES

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, MARR, IC, NATO

SUBJECT: IDF RETENTION NEGOTIATIONS

REF: (A) USNATO 5760; (B) STATE 231290; (C) REYKJAVIK 1437

1. IF NAC INSISTS ON A ROLE AT PRESENT TIME A USEFUL ONE WOULD BE TO ISSUE A STATEMENT REITERATING THAT RECENT EVENTS IN WORLD CONFIRM CONTINUED NEED FOR IDF, A STRONG DEFENSE POSTURE IN THE NORTH ATLANTIC, ETC., AND THEN CALL ON BOTH THE USG AND GOI TO KEEP IT INFORMED OF DEVELOPMENTS IN THE NEGOTIATIONS. THIS WOULD BE SUFFICIENT FOR THE MOMENT TO SUPPORT PRO-NATO ELEMENTS IN ICELAND.

2. THERE ARE A FEW PITFALLS TO BE AVOIDED BY NAC. ONE, FOR INSTANCE, IS GOING ON RECORD APPROVING OPTION C (PARA 2 REFTTEL B) WHEN THE LANGUAGE PERMITS A DOUBLE AND OPPOSITE MEANING. IN PRIVATE TO USG OPTION C IS DEFINED BY PRIME MINISTER AND FOREIGN MINISTER AS SOMETHING IN BETWEEN OPTIONS A AND B WITH RECOGNITION THAT AN ESSENTIAL MILITARY CORE MUST REMAIN. TO THE COMMUNISTS IN THE GOVT AND THE ANTI-IDF MEMBERS OF PRO-GRESSIVE PARTY, THE PRIME MINISTER AND FOREIGN MINISTER ARE DEFINING THIS AS ZERO MILITARY PRESENCE BUT AN ACTIVE IDF FACILITY MANNED BY CIVILIANS, PRIMARILY ICELANDERS WITH THE CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 REYKJA 01442 291804Z

PHASE-OUT TIMING A MATTER OF NEGOTIATION. NAC SHOULD BE CAUTIOUS THAT IT NOT BE CAUGHT IN THE MIDDLE.

3. ANOTHER PITFALL IS TO BELIEVE GOI WILL AUTOMATICALLY RECOG-

NIZE A CONTINUING LEGAL SUBSTANTIVE OBLIGATION OF NATO UNDER ARTICLE VII. IN THE 1956 NEGOTIATIONS FOR EXAMPLE THE FONMIN STATED: QUOTE I WANT PARTICULARLY TO POINT OUT THAT IN ACCORDANCE WITH ARTICLE VII OF THE DEFENSE AGREEMENT, THERE IS PROVISION THAT REVISION OF THE AGREEMENT WITH THE AIM IN VIEW OF TERMINATING IT SHOULD BEGIN BY SEEKING A REVIEW BY NATO. AS THIS REVIEW IS SET UP IN THE AGREEMENT, IT IS ACTUALLY MORE A MATTER OF FORM THAN SUBSTANCE BECAUSE IT PROVIDES ONLY FOR AN EXCHANGE OF NOTES BUT NOT FOR NEGOTIATIONS. END QUOTE. THE CURRENT FONMIN HOLDS SAME VIEW AND LAST SUMMER I HAD TO TALK HIM INTO WAITING FOR THE NATO REPORT BEFORE COMMENCING NEGOTIATIONS WITH USG.

4. NAC SHOULD NOT TAKE ANY ACTION WHICH FORMALLY ACKNOWLEDGES THAT THE ARTICLE VII 6 MONTH PERIOD IS REACHING AN END. AS YOU KNOW WE ARE STILL TRYING TO PROLONG THE 6 MONTH PERIOD BEYOND CHRISTMAS.

5. NAC WILL INDEED HAVE AN IMPORTANT ROLE TO PLAY IN HELPING ICELAND MAKE UP ITS MIND ON IDF BUT I QUESTION WHETHER DECEMBER IS THE APPROPRIATE TIME. I THINK WE SHOULD WAIT AT LEAST UNTIL AFTER THE DECEMBER NEGOTIATING ROUND BEFORE INVOLVING NAC ACTIVELY, OR AT LEAST WAIT UNTIL WE SEE WHAT DEVELOPS AFTER MY DECEMBER 3 MEETING WITH FONMIN (REFTEL C).

6. I AM NOT ACQUAINTED WITH TOMASSON (HAVING MET HIM ONLY FOR 5 OR 10 MINUTES DURING SEPTEMBER LUNS' VISIT HERE) BUT I HAVE GREAT RESPECT FOR HIS REPUTATION. HE MAY WELL HAVE BETTER AND MORE DIRECT INFORMATION FROM ICELAND WHICH LEADS HIM TO CONCLUSIONS REPORTED REFTEL A. IF DEPARTMENT PERCEIVES NO BOOBY TRAPS, I HAVE NO OBJECTION TO HAVING MY VIEWS (WITH OR WITHOUT ATTRIBUTION) COMMUNICATED TO TOMASSON FOR HIS PRIVATE OFF-THE-RECORD CONSIDERATION.

7. IN MY JUDGMENT NORWEGIANS SHOULD BE ENCOURAGED TO SPEAK OUT WHEREVER POSSIBLE FOR IDF. NORWEGIAN FONMIN SHOULD BE ENCOURAGED TO DISCUSS MATTER WITH GOI FONMIN AT UPCOMING MINIS-CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 REYKJA 01442 291804Z

TERIAL MEETING.
IRVING

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